

IN THE CLAIMS:

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend claim 2 as shown below.

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (original) A method of assembling a magnetic resonance imaging apparatus having a pair of a first magnet device and a second magnet device for generating a magnetostatic field, the pair of the first and second magnet devices being installed in fact-to-face relation with each other across an examination space for accommodating an examinee, a gradient-field generating device, a high-frequency field generating device, and a yoke for combining the first and second magnetic devices to guide magnetic fluxes generated by the first and second magnetic devices to thereby form a closed magnetic circuit, wherein the yoke includes a first plate member fixed to the first magnet device, a second plate member fixed to the second magnet device and one or more support-post members interconnecting the first plate member and the second plate member, each of the first and second plate members and the support-post members including a plurality of segments formed in such a shape as to minimize leakage field strength from the first magnet device and the second magnet device, the method comprising the steps of:

stacking a plurality of segments of the first plate member by fixing one after another, and then connecting the segments together to thereby assemble the first plate member;

fixing a plurality of segments of the support-post members one after another to the first plate member, and connecting the support-post segments to thereby assemble the support-post members;

providing a magnet device assembly connecting the first magnet device and the second magnet device together by a connection pipe, the first and second magnet devices being arranged in face-to-face relation with each other across the examination space;

fixing the magnet device assembly to the first plate member and also to the support-post members in such a way that the first magnet device is located on the first plate member; and

sequentially fixing and stacking a plurality of segments of the second plate member one after another on the second magnet device to thereby assemble the second plate member.

2. (currently amended) A method of assembling magnetic resonance imaging apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the first and second magnet devices include first and second cryostat units, each containing a superconducting coil ~~to cool the superconducting coil~~, and wherein when fixing the magnetic device assembly to the first plate member and the support-post members, a stiffener is placed between the first and second cryostat units, and after the assembling step of the second plate member is finished, the stiffener is removed.

3. (original) A method of assembling said magnetic resonance imaging apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising the step of, after the assembling

step of the second plate member is finished, arranging the gradient-field generating device and the high-frequency field generating device between the first and second magnet devices.

4. (original) A method of assembling said magnetic resonance imaging apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein in the step of fixing the magnetic device assembly to the first plate member and also to the support-post members, the magnetic device assembly having the gradient-field generating device and the high-frequency field generating device arranged between the first and second magnetic devices is provided.